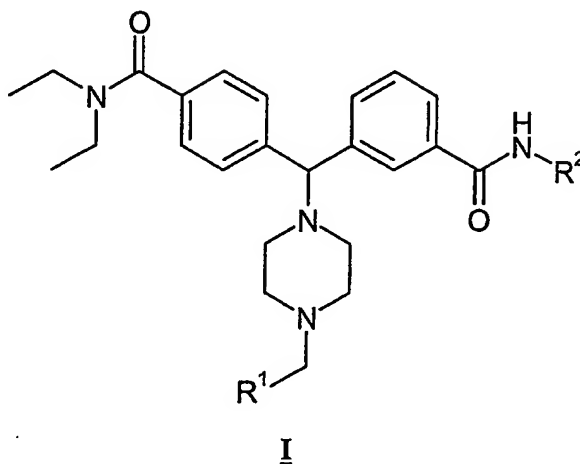


What is claimed is :

1. A compound of formula I, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or mixtures thereof:



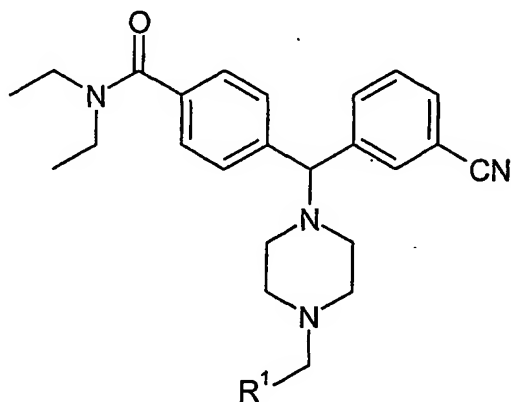
wherein

- 5 R^1 is an aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl; and
- 10 R^2 is hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-12} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{6-12} aryl, or optionally substituted C_{2-12} heterocyclyl.
2. A compound according to claim 1,
 wherein R^1 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl;
 15 triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo; and
 R^2 is hydrogen or methyl.
- 20 3. A compound according to claim 1,
 wherein R^1 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl;
 pyrrolyl; and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo; and
 25 R^2 is hydrogen or methyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1,
wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl;
pyrrolyl; and thiazolyl; and
5 R² is hydrogen or methyl.
5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:
- 10 3-[(4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
- 3-[(4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)[4-(2-furylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
- 15 3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl)methyl]-N-methyl-benzamide; enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
- 20 6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.
7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain, or functional gastrointestinal disorders.
- 25 8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
9. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.
- 30 10. A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such

therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

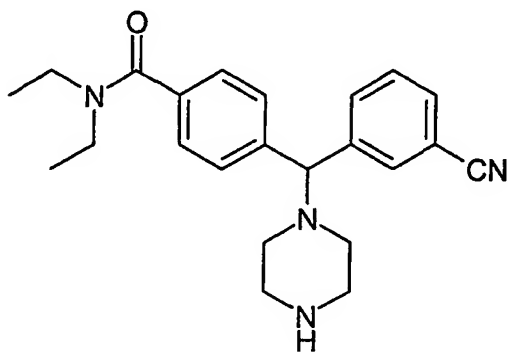
11. A process for preparing a compound of formula II,



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II

comprising of the step of reacting a compound of formula III:

III

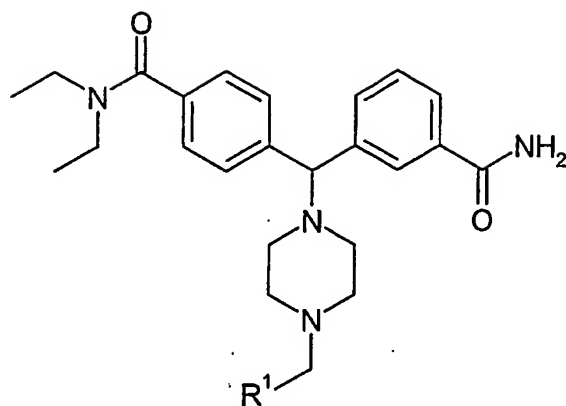
10 with R¹-CHO to form the compound of formula II

wherein

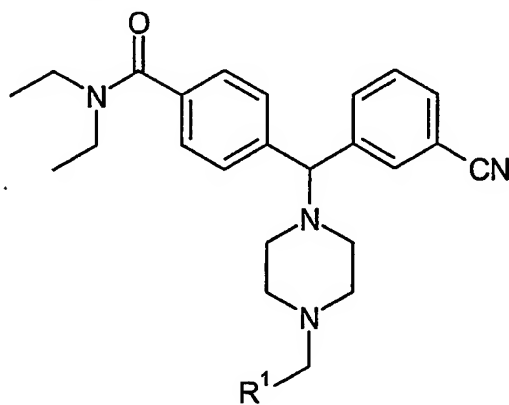
R¹ is an aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl.

12. A process for preparing a compound of formula IV,

39

IV

comprising: reacting a compound of formula II,

II

5

with an alkali metal hydroxide in non-aqueous solvent to form the compound of formula IV:

wherein

10 R¹ is an aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl.